

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9 at line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The belief map is then input to a map analyzer **8**. The map analyzer **8** analyses the belief map and outputs the recommendation for the sharpening of the image as one or more sharpening parameters. A sharpening parameter is any parameter which directly relates to the level or strength of sharpening applied to an image. In the preferred embodiment, the map analyzer **8** outputs a scale factor β derived from an analysis of the belief map. In general, the sharpening parameters are a function of the belief map. In the preferred embodiment, the scale factor β is a function of the belief map $M(m,n)$ and is preferably derived as follows:

$$\beta = (\beta_{material} - \beta_{non-material})0.01 \max_{x,y} M(x,y) + \beta_{non-material}$$

where:

$\beta_{material}$ is the ideal sharpening scale factor for images of the target material; and

$\beta_{non-material}$ is the ideal sharpening scale factor for images not containing the target material.--